

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:TJCAROLAN:PDW

APPROVED BY NEA:SSOBER

NEA/ARN:MDRAPER

NEA/ARP:FDICKMAN

NEA/IRN:MGREENE

NEA:ARDA

S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 194373

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MASS JO US SA

SUBJECT: HELPING THE SAUDIS SPEND THEIR MONEY

REF: (A) JIDDA 5365, (B) JIDDA 5388

1. WE WHOLEHEARTEDLY AGREE WITH YOUR POINT ABOUT THE DRAW-
BACKS (NOT TO MENTION BAD MANNERS) OF USG OR ANYONE ELSE
APPEARING TO DICTATE HOW THE SAUDIS SHOULD SPEND THEIR
MONEY. WE WERE AS DISMAYED AS YOU TO SEE THE JORDANIAN
AIR DEFENSE FUNDING ISSUE LEAKED TO THE US PRESS IN
INTIMATE DETAIL, SINCE--AS NOTED STATE 19046;--THE MOST WE
HAVE AUTHORIZED ANYONE TO SAY IS THAT WE REMAIN PREPARED TO
PROVIDE AN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM TO JORDAN, T;AT PROSPECTS
LOOK PROMISING, BUT THAT DETAILS OF FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS
SATISFACTORY TO ALL CONCERNED ARE STILL BEING WORKED OUT.
WE HAVE ALSO CONSISTENTLY ADVISED THE JORDANIANS TO CHECK

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WITH SAG BEFORE ISSUING PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS ON THIS

SUBJECT, APPARENTLY WITH SOMEWHAT BETTER SUCCESS IN RECENT DAYS. ---

2. THE SHAH HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT HE NEEDS NO ENCOURAGEMENT TO INVOLVE ;IMSELF IN JORDANIAN-SAUDI RELATIONS, A TENDENCY

THAT DOUBTLESS STEMS FROM HIS CLOSE PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP WITH KING HUSSEIN AND HIS UNDERSTANDABLE DESIRE TO SEE JORDAN PRESERVE ITS TRADITIONAL PRO-WESTERN ORIENTATION. WE HAVE INDEED SOUGHT AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE SHAH'S EFFORTS TO PERSUADE HUSSEIN TO STEER CLEAR OF AN ARMS SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOVIETS, BUT WE AGREE WITH YOU THAT WE OUGHT NOT TO ENCOURAGE HIM TO INJECT HIMSELF INTO JORDAN'S DEALINGS WITH T;E SAG ON THE AIR DEFENSE QUESTION.

3. WE CERTAINLY AGREE IT'S TOUGH TO BE RICH. IN ADDITION TO PAYING FOR THE ENTERTAINMENT, ONE ALSO HAS TO NURSE ALL THE HANGOVERS.

4. WE NOTE THAT THE SAUDIS HAVE NOT RESPONDED TO YOUR LATEST APPROACH RE THE HAWK/VULCAN PAYMENT SCHEDULE. WITH TIME RUNNING ON, WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ASSESSMENT AS TO WHETHER THEIR SILENCE OVER THE PAST WEEK MAY INDICATE AN INABILITY TO AGREE TO OUR TERMS. HABIB

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